



Michael Crosbie: Teacher Alumni

Westview Centennial Teacher Alumni:

Michael John Crosbie



Born June 4, 1933 in Brighton, Sussex, England, Michael was challenged from the start by living part of his childhood at an orphanage.

In 1948, at the age of 15, he joined the British Army. This would turn out to be his saving grace. At this young age a passion for music consumed his life. By the age of 16, with oboe in hand, he graduated from Kneller Hall which houses the Royal Military School of Music.

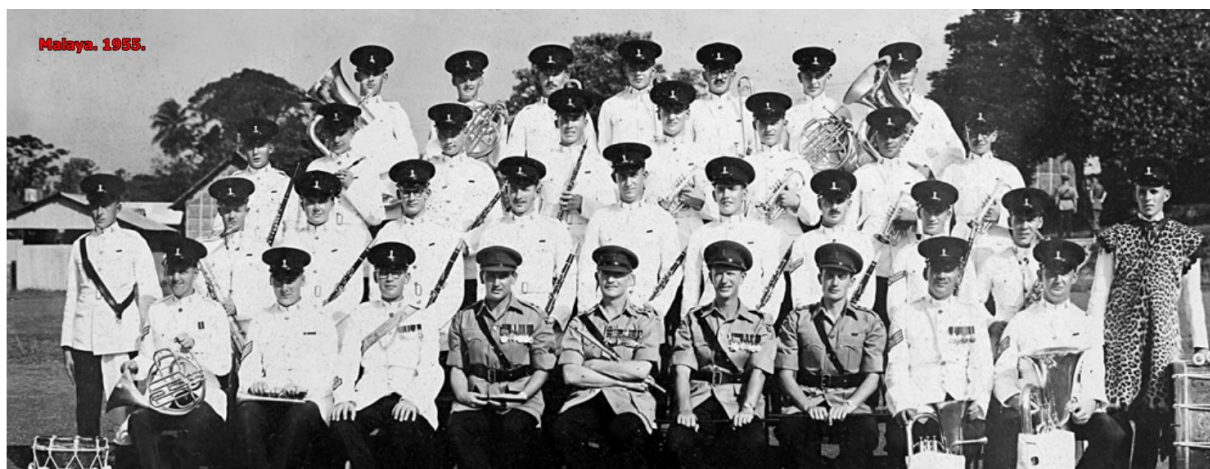
By 1955, Cpl. Crosbie was a member of the famed 11th Hussars (Prince Albert's Own) regiment band.

He was stationed in several places, including Malaya. He was an avid sportsman playing for the Regimental cricket, hockey, basketball and rugby teams. As the 'Golden Cue' champion of his British regiment, playing billiards was yet another talent.



1951, British Army, 11th Hussar's Band, back row 3rd from right

THE REGIMENTAL BAND, VISIT OF MAJOR-GENERAL J. F. B. COMBE,
C.B., D.S.O.



4th row: L/C. K. Barnatt, Bdsn. K. Hanks, E. Slade, R. Hession, M. Bradley, D. Whyte, D. Legg
3rd row: Bdsn. D. Hollinshead, I Mitchell, G. Boath, M.J. Crosbie, T. Farmer, A. Lawton, B. Sharples, L/C. D.A. Owens
2nd row: Bdsn. D. Higgins, J. McFadyen, A. Rogers, N. Clough, J.A.H. Ridley, D. Whatley, R. English, Cpl. A.A. Jennings
1st row: Cpl. E. Ashwood, Bdsn. Bdsn. E. Llewellyn, M. Smith, Cpl. G. Rose, Sgt. D.J. Fowler, B/M.G.R. Freeth, Lt. Col. P. Arkwright, Maj. Gen. J.F.C. Combe, C.B., D.S.O. Maj. T.I. Pitman, M.G. Capt. CIL Robertson, B/Sgt. B. MacArthur, Sgt. R. Gregory

Band basket-ball team played the estate and came away four points down and one pennant up! During this match the Dixieland ensemble entertained on Number Two Court, to the delight of the Chinese. We continue to give concerts in kampongs (villages); at the latest one history was made when the District Officer was coerced into conducting a march, being rewarded with a five cent piece!

On the occasion of our visit to Ulu Berenang the Band moved in as a troop, due to transport difficulties. We travelled in style in Jeeps, Saracens, Daimlers and other unmentionable vehicles. It is rumoured that "B" Squadron have dedicated a new song to the Band: "They can't tell a Jeep from a Dingo."

At the children's party we were victims of several child prodigy conductors; afterwards there were carols from all the children, and the Band played "Happy Birthday" for, and presented a gigantic card to, Mrs. T.Q.M.S. Addis.

The "Band-Hour" series of concerts has been a success with all Squadrons; the second set, "Family Night," is under way and should bring in the ladies to brighten our drab existence. Sgt. Gregory is an especial favourite with his Sousaphone, and various Army songs have been refurbished and presented by a variety of soloists. The top of the poll has been Bdsn. White, who renders "The Teddy-Boys' Picnic" in inimitable and truly cockney style. We were pleased to entertain members of the crew of H.M.S. *Crane* when they visited the camp. Can any reader supply a rhyme for frigate? Cpls. Percival and Llewellyn gave it up!

The New Instrument scheme is being pressed home; we expect results soon in the shape of new clarinets to replace Malaya-weary old ones; also we hope to supply our intake of cornetists (six) with new cornets.

Socially we have contacted old friends in many bands while visiting Singapore and we entertained the South Wales Borderers and Royal Welch Fusiliers in the Cor-

porals' Mess, Paroi, to a social evening. The evening was a great success, but appeared to be a "fiddle" as we won everything except the snooker doubles. Mr. Francis surprised all present by winning two prizes in the raffle, which was drawn by Mr. Whiting, Bandmaster, S.W.B. Sgt. P. Byrnes supplied an excellent buffet which was appreciated and depreciated in record time.

The following have represented the Regiment at sports:

Soccer: Cpls. Barnatt and Ashwood; L./Cpls. Llewellyn and Lawton; Bdsn. Hollinshead.

Cricket: B./Sgt. Fowler; Cpl. Rose; L./Cpl. Lawton.

Hockey: Sgts. MacArthur, Fowler and Jennings; Cpls. Ashwood, Barnatt and Crosbie; L./Cpl. Lawton; Bdsn. Ridley.

Rugby: Cpls. Crosbie and English; L./Cpl. Percival; Bdsn. Ridley and Rogers; L./Cpl. Owens.

Basket-ball: B./Sgt. Fowler; Cpls. Ashwood, Barnatt, Crosbie and English; L./Cpls. Llewellyn and Lawton; Bdsn. McFadyen, Farmer, White, Whyte, Whatley, Hollinshead and Sharples.

Shooting: L./Cpl. Owens; Bdsn. Ridley and Bradley.

NOMINAL ROLL XI HUSSARS (P.A.O.) BAND

B./M. F. J. Francis,	A./L./Cpl. M. Smith.
A.R.C.M., L.G.S.M.	A./L./Cpl. A. Lawton.
B./Sgt. D. Fowler.	Bdsn. R. Mason.
Sgt. R. Gregory.	Bdsn. D. Whatley.
Sgt. F. Jennings.	Bdsn. D. Legg.
Cpl. E. Ashwood.	Bdsn. W. Simpson.
Cpl. J. Barnatt.	Bdsn. A. Morgan.
Cpl. M. Crosbie.	Tpr. B. White.
Cpl. A. Coombes.	Tpr. W. Laird.
A./Cpl. R. English.	Tpr. R. McMillan.
L./Cpl. A. Percival.	Tpr. H. Barnard.
L./Cpl. E. Llewellyn.	Tpr. G. Richards.
L./Cpl. E. Slade.	

In 1957, now 22 years of age, he immigrated to Canada.

After completing his studies in 1961 for his Associate of The Royal Conservatory of Music (ARCT) diploma, his teaching career started in earnest. He also obtained a Bachelor of Music and Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Toronto.

Page Four THE COLBOENE CHRONICLE, Thursday, March 8th, 1962

Brighton News

1962

by Bette Moore

There certainly seem to be an abundance of "8's" in the news these days and it's nice to know the Eastern Ontario Concert Orchestra is not behind the times. Those members of the large and talented group fall in age from 8 to age 81. The concert at the High School Sunday evening was most successful. The Brighton High School Band began the evening followed by a selection played by the String Quartet. Singing were the Brighton High School Choir and the High School Orchestra played. The selections chosen by Director of Music, Mr. Michael Crosbie, proved the finest possible lead to the remainder of the evening taken over by the Concert Orchestra under the direction of conductor, Stephen Choma of Frankford and Concert Master, Marion Stratton.

Several Brightonians are a part of this group. Violinists, Charles Young, Joan Weycraft, Bob Coffee, Norman Copple, and Janice Young and Marg Stewart played the viola. Michael Crosbie was cellist while Ben Thompson played the trombone.

The selections chosen by the High School Orchestra and choir will be a portion of Brighton's contribution at the Peterborough Music Festival to be held in Peterborough this year.

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By 1962 he was directing the music program at R. S. McLaughlin in Oshawa. He would be there for five years.



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Brighton High School Wins Honours

Colborne Chronical
Mar 22, 1963

The 13th proved a most successful day for our E.N.D.H.S. musicians who took part in the Peterborough Kiwanis Music Festival in Peterborough. The High School Choir and Double-trio took first place; the High School Orchestra placed second, as did the second Double-trio entry. In thrid place was the High School Band, and belive me, Brighton is proud of the showing each group made.

On the 12th, the day before the big event, Mr. Michael Crosbie, music supervisor at E.N.D.-H.S., took sick and was taken to Trenton Memorial Hospital. Arrangements were made for a music instructor from Oshawa to direct the Brighton group and the gloom that had been cast over all due to Mr. Crosbie's suddn illness was considerably lightened when; upon their arrival in Peterborough, the students found a telegram from Mr. Crosbie wishing them luck. As soon as the results of the participation were made known, the students shared their good fortune by wiring the results to Mr. Crosbie. There is little doubt but that he was proud of his students but doubtless, even happier over their sharing their victory with him. Mr. Crosbie is expected to be a patient at Trenton Memorial Hospital for at least 6 weeks due to rheumatic fever. All of Brighton wishes him a speedy recovery!

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THEY CAME TOGETHER-- AND THEY PLAYED

The Globe and Mail (1936-2016); Dec 1, 1967; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Globe and Mail
pg. 5



THEY CAME TOGETHER--AND THEY PLAYED

It was called a musical happening. Two hundred and fifty student musicians from eight North York secondary schools gathered at Westview Centennial Secondary School yesterday for an all-day session. They were given music they'd never seen before and most of the day to practice. In the evening, they put on a concert for parents and friends. The program was organized by Westview's musical director, **Michael Crosbie**.

In 1967 he headed the music department at the just opened Westview Centennial Secondary School.

Westview band takes **1968 November 7** in sights of New York City

Bill Waicus, a Grade 11 student at Westview Centennial secondary school, Oakdale Rd., in North York, and Weston Times correspondent, reports that over 40 students returned from a recent trip to Hamilton, Ont. and New York City that included concerts, sight-seeing and shopping.

The purpose of the visits, however, was to entertain as well as be entertained.

The students, ranging in age from 15 to 18 years, from Grades 10 through 13, were invited to play for Ancaster high school near Burlington; the Cathedral girls' band in Hamilton and Harbor Hill elementary school outside New York City.

Before the musical journey, Westview heard the Hamilton band who gave a stirring concert under W.B. Santor's direction.

At Ancaster the two high school bands represented a joint concert and provided for music for a dance later in the evening.

Michael Crosbie, Westview's band and music director, arranged the concert "bookings". The students themselves requested teachers Mr. and Mrs. Donald Morrison to be

chaperones for the duration of the trip.

Highlights of their New York stay were the Empire State building, Radio City music hall, Lincoln Centre, United Nations where they met a member of the Canadian delegation, a boat tour around the city and shopping at Macy's department store.

DINE and DANCE



Starting Monday
Nov. 4th

Spend an enjoyable evening with us in our colonial style dining room

Entertainment Nightly

Ross Allen

& Billy Gibbs

Folk and Pop Artists

YORK TOWN TAVERN & STEAK HOUSE

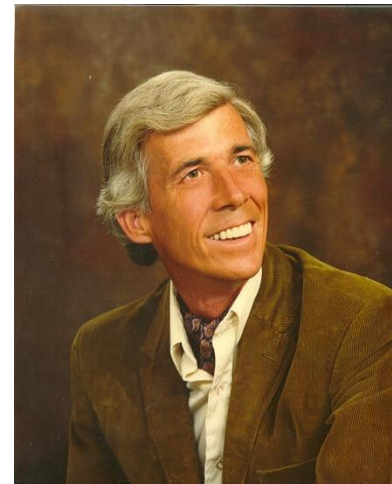
5 Milvan Dr., Weston - 749-2868

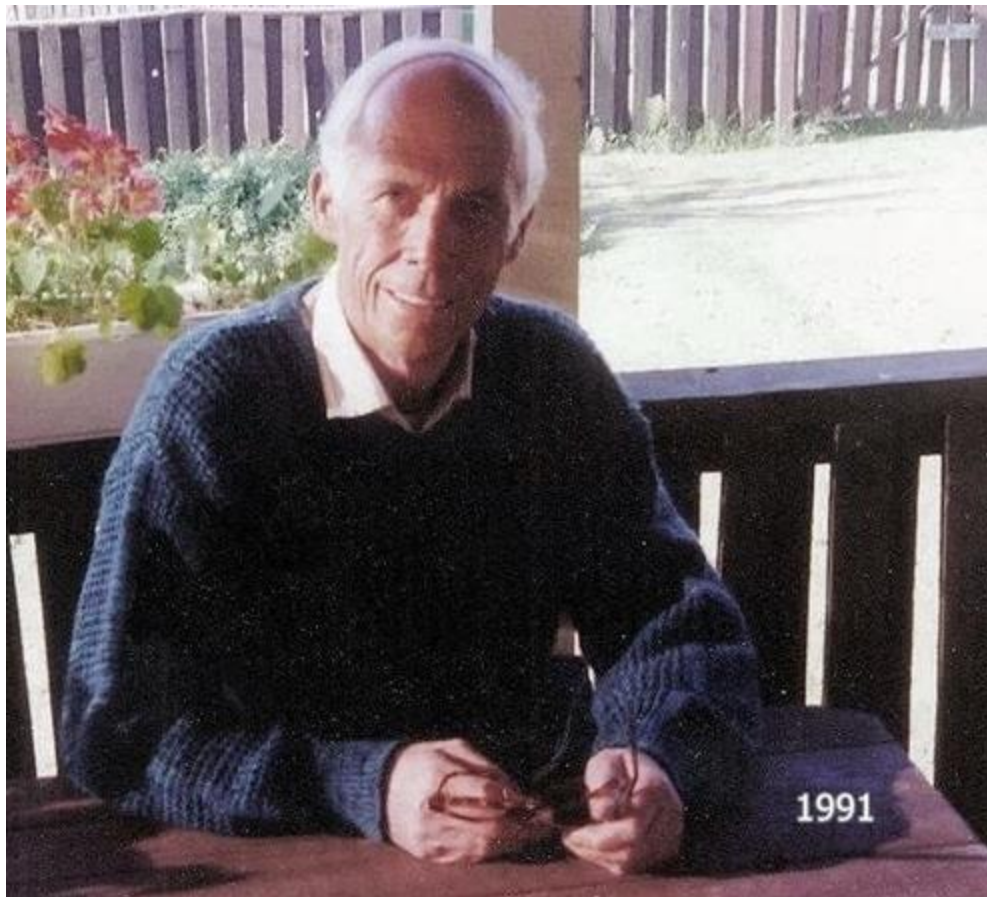
(Just north of Finch, between Islington & Weston)

**1967 Trafalgar Square
London, England**



In 1972 he retired to Campbell River in British Columbia, where he created a community band and taught private music lessons.





He passed away May 29, 2004.